



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: §  
Kevin A. Retlich et al. §  
Serial No.: 09/672,937 § Group Art Unit: 2857  
Filed: September 28, 2000 § Examiner: Desta, Elias  
For: NETWORKED CONTROL SYSTEM § Atty. Docket: 00AB188/YOD  
WITH REAL TIME MONITORING § ALBR:0085

Mailstop: Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date below:	
01/08/2004	Date
<i>Helen Tinsley</i> Helen Tinsley	

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
**MAILED OCTOBER 8, 2003**

Dear Sir:

Prior to addressing the substance of the Office Action, Applicants respectfully address the Office Action's shortened statutory period for reply. In the Office Action, the Examiner set the shortened statutory period for reply to expire two months from the mailing date of the Office Action. However, in a teleconference between Mr. Manish Vyas, an associate of the undersigned and Examiner Desta on December 8, 2003, the Examiner indicated that the shortened statutory period set at two months was in error. Additionally, Examiner Desta indicated that the shortened statutory period for reply regarding the present Office Action was intended to expire three months from the mailing date of the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that no extension fees are due with respect to the present Response. However, if it is found that fees are necessary to prosecute the present Response, Applicants hereby authorize the

Commissioner to withdraw any necessary fees from Deposit Account Number 01-0857;  
Order Number 00AB188; ALBR:0085/YOD/VYA.

By the present Response, two new independent claims have been added in excess of the number for which fees have already been paid. Accordingly, an additional fee of \$172 (two x \$86) is due. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee for these new claims to Deposit Account Number 01-0857; Order Number 00AB188; ALBR:0085/YOD/VYA.

In response to the Office Action mailed on October 8, 2003, please amend the referenced patent application as follows: